

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT	
TOPIC	Military Activities in the Gera and Forst Zeitz Training Grounds		25X1
EVALUATION		PLACE OBTAINED	25X1
DATE OF CONTENT			
DATE OBTAINED		DATE PREPARED	20 July 1954 25X1
REFERENCES			
PAGES	3	ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)	25X1
REMARKS	This is UNEVALUATED Information 25X1		

1. At 1930 on 1 July 1954, a train with the following materiel passed through Gera toward Glauchau from the direction of Erfurt:  
9 T-34/85s, 3 JSU-122s, 3 trucks, 2 sidecar motorcycles, 1 field kitchen and about 100 soldiers on 5 boxcars. 1

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2. From 14 June to 2 July, the Reuss Kaserne in Gera (8141) quartered about 2,500 soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. The following details were seen:

At 0700 on 14 June: 80 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets and 50 KVP men marching from the kaserne to the garrison training grounds where they engaged in a joint practice attack against emplacements with blank cartridges.

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At 1010 on 16 June: 4 prime movers towing 122-mm field howitzers and each carrying 10 soldiers and trucks with 20 men each driving to the training grounds. They returned at 1530. At 1400, 3 trucks with boards and planks and 64 soldiers with spades, axes and saws moved to the training grounds.

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At 1930 on 18 June: 1 truck and a fatigue detail of 120 men driving to the training grounds. At 1730, 6 prime movers towing 100-mm AT guns and carrying 10 men each and trucks carrying 20 men each driving toward Forst Zeitz. They returned at 1730 on 19 June.

On 21 June: 3 trucks and a fatigue detail of 160 men driving to the training grounds.

At 1130 on 22 June: a howitzer battery of 122-mm field howitzers driving toward Forst Zeitz. It returned at about 2400.

At 0800 on 23 June: 8 prime movers towing 100-mm AT guns and 7 trucks with 20 men each entering the installation from the training grounds. At 0845, the howitzer battery left for Forst Zeitz.

At 0800 on 24 June: 4 trucks and 220 soldiers of a fatigue detail driving to the training grounds. Five prime movers including

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[REDACTED] were loaded at Gera railroad station at 1500.

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*and*  
 At [REDACTED]  
 AT [REDACTED]  
 with [REDACTED]  
 soldiers moved to the training grounds. Motor vehicles, [REDACTED]  
 and [REDACTED] were identified; At 2300, 4 prime movers towing 100-mm  
 AT guns and carrying 10 soldiers each, and truck [REDACTED] with 20  
 men moved to Forst Zeitz. They returned at 0830 on 29 June.

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At 1100 on 1 July: A howitzer battery moved to Forst Zeitz.

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At 0920 on 2 July: Soldiers practiced with an AT gun battery.  
 After 1030, artillery firing was heard from Forst Zeitz. 2

3. From 14 June to 2 July, the Panzer Kaserne in Gera-Tinz (8142) was occupied by about 250 soldiers woldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank and motor transport insignia.<sup>3</sup> On 14 June, ammunition was unloaded from 4 boxcars at Gera railroad station and trucked to the Panzer Kaserne. [REDACTED]

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From 29 June to 2 July, 4 T-34/85s and a JSU-122 practiced cross-country driving daily.<sup>3</sup>

4. From 22 to 27 June, the Reuss Kaserne in Gera was still occupied by a unit of 1,500 to 1,700 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets. The unit frequently engaged in practices in Forst Zeitz. Four to eight 100 AT guns were several times seen leaving the kaserne. Many night practices have been conducted since early June. [REDACTED]

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5. From 22 to 27 June, the Panzer Kaserne in Tinz was still occupied by about 200 soldiers. The cadre personnel wore tank insignia and the bulk of the troops wore no branch-of-service insignia. [REDACTED]

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6. From 28 to 30 June, the Reuss Kaserne in Gera was occupied by about 2,800 to 3,000 soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets, including 60 percent with artillery insignia, 30 percent with motor transport insignia and 10 percent with AT insignia. Some of the soldiers did not wear insignia. Local residents observed that major units with guns left the installation during the night of 27 June. On 28 June, 8 x 100-mm AT guns and several hundreds of soldiers engaged in entrenching work were seen in the training area north of Untermhaus. At 0900 on 30 June, a column drove from the installation toward Debschwitz southwest of Gera. Observed were:

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26 JS-12 prime movers with 1 x 100-mm AT gun and 8 to 15 men each;  
about 20 trucks with about 20 men wearing red-bordered black

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7. The Panzer Kaserne in Tinz quartered about 120 soldiers between 28 and 30 June. They wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank

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8. On 24 and 25 June, several thousands of soldiers were in Forst Zeitz firing range. About 180 motor vehicles and SP guns were seen. On 24 June, a column of 12 x76-mm canons drove to Forst Zeitz. On 24 and 25 June, soldiers practiced with tanks, AT guns and mortars throughout the day and at night. KVP units were involved in the exercises.

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Farmers said that units from Altenburg, Borna, Gera, Halle and Zeitz were at that time stationed in Forst Zeitz. 4

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1. Comment. Presumably a firing detail of the 220th Hv Tank SP Regt of the Eighth Gds Army which returned from Ohrdruf.

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2. Comment. The corresponding information by the three sources confirm the 308th Arty Brig XXVIII Gds Mtz Rifle Corps in Gera up to 27 July. The observations regarding the training activity are indicative of training at battery level with emphasis on night practice and firing in Forst Zeitz. Practice marches at battalion level were probably also conducted. The enlargement of the garrison training grounds was made in view of the fact that the brigade would not move to Ohrdruf this year.

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an ammunition depot of the brigade is carried in the Panzer Kaserne in Gera-Tinz.

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3. Comment. Information confirms the unidentified tank training unit of the Eighth Gds Army.

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4. Comment. The VP soldiers mentioned probably belong to the 3d Inf Regt of KVP Division Erfurt in Gera, Zeitz Plant (8144).

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